



Inclement Weather

As an Energy Dealer, driving in inclement weather (wind, rain, snow, ice, fog) can be inconvenient, annoying and frustrating. But, this is the nature of your operation. Driving may be difficult but a breakdown in poor weather can be even more infuriating. These aggravations can be minimized by taking some routine precautions before rolling out on the highway.

Getting Started

Get to know unfamiliar territory and roads by checking maps. Check weather forecasts so that inclement weather conditions are not a surprise. Maintain loose or corroded battery terminal connections which have a habit of causing interruptions at the most inopportune times. Of all vehicle fluids, improper antifreeze levels can be the most troublesome. Antifreeze needs to be strong enough to prevent freezing and fresh enough to prevent rust, a frequent cause of cooling system failures. Consider enhancing the wiper blade equipment by installing “boots” which cover the working parts and protect them from jamming with snow and ice.

Staying Unstuck

It seems that common sense is not as common today and there's some benefit from repeating basic safety strategies and the reasons for them. If you think safety is dull and boring, try working out of a wheelchair for a while. Safety is economical, timesaving and competitive.

One of the leading causes for being taken out of service is improperly adjusted brakes. Performing the required inspections and maintenance should reduce the chances of being stranded at weigh stations or DOT checkpoints.

Stay clear of plowed snow banks as they commonly conceal obstacles, barriers or depressions. Following high wind warnings for high profile vehicles will help keep you out of the ditch and on the roadway. Avoid backing into downslopes that are muddy, greasy or flooded and reduce the risk of needing to be towed.

Seeing Others and Being Seen

Driving the posted speed limit requires good visibility. Speed should be reduced as visibility is reduced. Driving blindly in fog, snow and rain threatens your life and others. Half the battle is seeing others. Visibility in this case requires clean windshields, and windows, effective wiper blades, defroster and electric side mirror de-icers. The other half is being seen by others. This requires lights-head, tail, brake, turn, backup, hazard, clearance, etc. - and reflector lenses and perimeter reflective markings. The cleaner that lights and reflectors are, the sooner others will see you which gives them the longest lead time possible and helps to avoid collisions.



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